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OLSON

24 July 1975

REVIEW STAFF
75-2049

Mrs. Frank R. Olson
Frederick
Maryland

Dear Mrs. Olson:

I wish to join with President Ford in expressing my deepest personal sympathy and hope you and your family will also accept my sincere apologies on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency for the suffering you and your family have endured as a result of the untimely loss of your husband in 1953. The uniform reaction of the employees of the Agency at this disclosure has been dismay and regret that this could have occurred. I can find no explanation for why you were not fully informed of the circumstances at the time and apologize equally for that omission.

Your letter of July 17, 1975, identified three specific elements of relief. With regard to the full and complete disclosure of all of the details surrounding the circumstances which led to the administration of LSD, I have made available to your attorney the information available to the Central Intelligence Agency.

With respect to the second item mentioned in your letter, an Agency directive was issued on 29 August 1973 which expressly prohibits any experiment or use of drugs or other techniques for influencing human behavior to be conducted on unwitting American citizens. This stems from the Agency's and my reaction to this case and our conviction that such an event should never recur in America. In addition to this Agency policy, Congress, in passing the National Research Act on July 12, 1974 (PL 93-348), established a National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. This Commission was established to specifically develop guidelines applicable to all departments

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and agencies of the Government conducting any biomedical and behavioral research on human subjects. This Agency will adhere to all guidelines suggested by the National Commission.

With regard to the third matter raised in your letter, your claim for monetary damages, I am advised that President Ford designated the Attorney General as the appropriate official to discuss your claim.

If you have any additional questions or any other assistance I could provide, please contact me, and I will do my utmost to respond fully.

Sincerely,

/s/

W. E. Colby
Director

WEC [redacted]
(Typed on Office of the Director letterhead)
Distribution:
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